

AFTERMATH OF THE \VAR

Iran's resources belong to Iran. Iran can give them
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or refuse to dispose of them at any price if It so desire;^{2:}

This statement was undoubtedly of capital
importance as far as
the policies of Qavaia and the Majlis were concerned.
It was also
timely, because, contrary to what might be expected.
the British gov-
ernment wavered in its support of Iran in the las:
miirjie. In a note
addressed to the Premier by the new British
Ambassador Sir John Le
Rougetel, the British Embassy advised Iran to keep
the duor spen
for future discussions with Russia on the subject of oil.
On September
12 a Foreign Office spokesman in London confirmed
that Great
Britain had no objection in principle to Iran's
granting an oil con-
cession to the Soviet Union.²¹ Observers in Teheran
and London felt
that this different approach by the British was
dictated by their fear
that Iran's rejection of the agreement would be too
provocative to
the Soviets and might eventually lead to the
cancellation of the
British oil concession in the south.

As it was, the American statement of policy seemed
to impress the
Iranians more than British hesitation. Ambassador
Allen's declara-
tion, it must be pointed out, was not an isolated
outburst of American
charity toward Iran. It was a logical consequence of
a policy that
had been gradually developed in 1946 during the
Irano-Scviet dis-
pute over Azerbaijan and which, on April 13, *947r
had found its
dramatic expression in the American President's
'Truman Doctrine"
speech. In that memorable statement the President
had made public
the American policy of containment of Communism
all over the
world and of the defense of small nations against
aggression- and in-
filtration. He had also pledged specific economic and

military aid to
Greece and Turkey. This new determined policy
found its organizational expression in the State Department. A new
unit called the
Division for Greek, Turkish, and Iranian Affairs was
created. Thus
Iran was put on a par with Greece and Turkey, two
other countries
threatened with immediate Soviet expansion.

The consequences of this energetic American
support were felt
in Iran immediately. On October 22, 1947* the Majlis
rejected the oil
agreement with the Soviet Union by a vote of 102 to
2 despite loud

2QJY«i' *York Times*, SepL 12, 1947.

21 Jdu?., Sept. 13, 1947-